

[27th April 1959]

*Note.—An asterisk (\*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.)*

**II.—ANNOUNCEMENT RE MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.**

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce that the Governor has given his recommendation for the consideration in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the following Bills :—

- (1) The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, 1959.
- (2) The Madras Khadi and Village Industries Board Bill, 1959.
- (3) The Madras Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1959.
- (4) The Madras Land Improvement Schemes Bill, 1959.

**III.—STATEMENT RE BUS ACCIDENT ON KARAMADAI-GEDDAI ROAD.**

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister in charge of Electricity will now make the statement regarding the bus accident on Karamadai-Geddai Road.

Before the Hon. Minister makes the statement I wish to point out to hon. Members that there are two ways of discussing the matter, one by means of short notice questions and . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : After the Hon. Minister makes the statement we will take a decision on that.

\* THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : With deep regret I wish to inform the House about the unfortunate bus accident that occurred on the 23rd April 1959 at 4-30 p.m. on Karamadai-Geddai Road. The ill-fated bus left Vallianagadu on its last journey at 3-30 p.m. and reached the scene at about 4-30 p.m. While negotiating the Hair-pin bend No. 12 on the road, the conductor got down to give direction to the driver and the driver after going forward appears to have reversed the bus and lost control; thereby resulting in the bus rolling down the slope to a depth of about 80 feet and landed on its top with the wheels upward. The bus crashed to pieces sandwiching the passengers between the roof and the seat.

Information reached the Executive Engineer, Geddai, through a jeep which was going ahead of the bus and the Executive Engineer with the medical officer and his staff immediately rushed to the scene and rendered necessary medical aid after extricating the victims. Seventeen persons including the driver died instantaneously. Five persons sustained serious injuries and they were rushed to the Headquarters Hospital, Ootacamund. All the deceased and the injured persons were of various avocations such as labourers, petty